



Application No.: 09/522,294  
Attorney Docket No.: 03500.014341

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A multibeam scanning optical apparatus comprising:
  - a light source having a plurality of light beam emitting sections;
  - a light deflector for deflecting a plurality of light beams emitted respectively from [said] the plurality of light beam emitting sections of said light source;
  - a scanning optical system for [focussing said] focusing the plurality of light beams deflected by said light deflector on a surface to be scanned; and
  - a photodetector for controlling a timing of a start of scanning of [said] the plurality of light beams by detecting [a part of said] at least one of the plurality of light beams deflected by said light deflector as at least one detection light beam[s],  
wherein the timing of the start of scanning is controlled to align the centers of scanning areas of [said] the plurality of light beams with each other on the surface to be scanned while allowing starting points of scanning of [said] the plurality of light beams to differ from each other when [said] the plurality of light beams have respective wavelengths that are different from each other.

2. (Twice Amended) A multibeam scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a detection optical element for converging [said] the at least one detection light beam[s] and leading [them] the at least one detection light beam to said photodetector,

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wherein said detection optical element has its optical surfaces arranged orthogonally relative to the at least one detection light beam[s].

9. (Amended) A multibeam scanning optical apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said incident optical system comprises a first lens for collimating each of said plurality of light beams emitted from said light source and a second lens for [focussing] focusing each of said plurality of collimated light beams on the deflection plane of the optical deflector as a linear image extending in the main-scanning direction.

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